



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **2005 PEACH FORECAST FINAL 2004 PEACH and APPLE PRODUCTION**

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- The 2005 peach crop is forecast at 5,500 tons, down 8 percent, or 500 tons from the 2004 crop, and down 750 tons, or 12 percent from the 2003 crop.

In 2004, utilized production totaled 5,800 tons, a decrease of 100 tons from 2003. Value of utilized production totaled \$2.8 million, a decrease of 37 percent from 2003. Bearing acres were estimated at 970, down 130 acres from 2003, with an average yield of 6.19 tons pounds per acre. The average price received per ton was estimated at \$478.00. This was a decrease of \$262.00 from 2003.

Total apple production for 2004 was estimated at 81.0 million pounds (1.93 million 42 lb. bushels), down 7 percent, or 6 million pounds from 2003. Utilized production totaled 80.0 million pounds, down 5 million pounds from 2003. Apples for fresh market totaled 15.0 million pounds, down 1 million pounds from 2003. Apples for processing accounted for 65.0 million pounds of the 2004 crop, 4 million pounds less than the 2003 crop.

The average price received for 2004 apples was 9.1 cents per pound, down 0.6 cents from 2003. Total value of utilized production was \$7.3 million for the crop, down \$1.0 million from the 2003 crop. Fresh market apples brought 17.2 cents per pound in 2004, 4.3 cents less than 2003. Processed apples sold for \$144 per ton, \$6 more than in 2003.

The number of bearing acres of apples totaled 5,000 in 2004, down 1,000 acres from 2003. The yield per acre was 16,200 pounds, 1,700 pounds more than 2003. The yield was based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested, but not sold due to marketing conditions.

**UNITED STATES** -- The July 2005 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.24 million tons, down 5 percent from 2004 and 2 percent below two years ago. Twenty of the 28 peach estimating States expect declines in production from last year, while 8 States increased their production from the previous season.

The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 530,000 tons, up 4 percent from the June 1 forecast but 2 percent below the 2004 crop. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 410,000 tons, unchanged from the June 1 forecast but 6 percent below the 2004 crop. The South Carolina peach crop is forecast at 75,000 tons, down 6 percent from the June 1 forecast but 7 percent above 2004. North Carolina's peach crop, forecast at 6,000 tons, is up 71 percent from last year and double the 2003 season. This is the State's best peach crop since 1999. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 40,000 tons, down 11 percent from the June 1 forecast and 24 percent from 2004.

The U.S. peach production in 2004 was estimated at 1.31 million tons, up 4 percent from 2003. Of this production, 1.23 million tons were utilized, up 2 percent from 2003. Value of utilized production totaled \$461.6 million, up 2 percent from 2003. The average price received for peaches was \$375.00 per ton, down \$2.00 from 2003.

Total apple production for 2004 totaled 10.4 billion pounds, up 19 percent from 2003. Utilized apple production totaled 10.3 billion pounds, up 19 percent from the 2003 level. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.63 billion, down 10 percent from 2003. Price per pound averaged 15.8 cents, down 5.1 cents. A total of 6.6 billion pounds was sold for fresh market, up 20 percent from 2003. There were 3.8 billion pounds for processing, up 16 percent from 2003.

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